

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities
Minutes, May 13, 2003

Chairman John Harris convened the meeting at 7:02 P.M. at Shrewsbury Town Hall. In attendance were Gail Sokolowski, Joe Bellil, Jerry Berrier, Emily Gerber, and Town Manager Daniel Morgado.

After two minor corrections, Ms. Sokolowski moved and Mr. Bellil seconded a motion to accept the minutes from our April meeting. The motion passed.

Liaison Report; Mr. Morgado:

- ❑ Work has not yet begun on the access ramp at the "brick schoolhouse". Mr. Morgado has been told of difficulty finding a contractor to do the work. He will try to assist by soliciting a contractor who is already working for the town of Shrewsbury. He'll ask for help from Bob Cox.
- ❑ The proposal to provide \$10,000.00 for access improvements is still in the capital budget. The Selectmen voted to support it, but it has yet to be approved by the Finance Committee and then by the Town Meeting.
- ❑ Mr. Morgado has received two complaints since our April meeting.
- ❑ The first related to an event held at a facility in Shrewsbury. The proprietor has said he felt that the event met accessibility requirements through an arranged accommodation. Mr. Morgado is awaiting further information, but he said we have no direct responsibility for the facility.
- ❑ The second relates to construction work being done at the North Shore School. While putting in an addition at the school, workers removed an access ramp but did not shut the facility down until it could again be made accessible. The problem was resolved the next day, and parking spaces will be re-established once the construction is finished. Mr. Morgado expressed regret that the ramp was temporarily removed without closing the facility to the public.
- ❑ Mr. Morgado described proposed transportation cuts. He said he will oppose a proposal to eliminate a Route 15 deviation to Elizabeth Gardens, as it will affect service to individuals eligible for ADA transit.

Ms. Sokolowski reported that she has received the TTY we agreed to purchase for the Town Manager's office. Mr.

Bellil will provide basic instruction and will help set it up.

Ms. Sokolowski attended the Regional disability commissions meeting. She thanked Mr. Morgado for his support and said several people from other disability commissions complained of a lack of support by their town officials.

Mr. Morgado left the meeting to attend to other business.

Ms. Sokolowski gave a synopsis of issues covered at the regional meeting, and Mr. Berrier reported on a meeting he attended in Shrewsbury to discuss accessibility issues in the MA courts system.

Ms. Sokolowski said the TTY we ordered cost \$254.00

Phone log: No calls.

E-mail: No e-mails other than a CC to our commission regarding one of the complaints covered in Mr. Morgado's liaison report.

Web: Mrs. Gerber received a request from Stephanie Janis for contact information for our commission. We agreed to provide the e-mail address for the Disability Commission rather than one of our personal addresses. Emily will provide our commission name rather than a specific contact person. We agreed not to include our telephone number. Mr. Harris said he has been providing approved minutes along with meeting agendas to Stephanie.

Grievance form: We discussed possible changes to our grievance process. Jerry will check past minutes to determine what discussion may have taken place with MOD officials when we created our current process. We'll discuss the matter at our June meeting.

Old business:

Dean park; Mr. Bellil said improvements have been made. He stated that he feels parks should be included in the town's transition plan.

Mr. Harris will ask Mr. Morgado about the possibility of some small improvement projects being undertaken at town parks.

Mr. Berrier is still awaiting a response from Fire Captain Vuona regarding an emergency preparedness presentation.

Election: We will elect new officers at our June meeting. Mr. Bellil said he plans to inform Mr. Morgado that he does not wish to be reappointed to the Disability Commission this year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 10 at 7:00 P.M.

There being no further business, Mr. Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully,

Jerry Berrier, Secretary